

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are currently in this application. Claims 1, 6-9, 13, and 14 are in independent form. Entry of this amendment and favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 3-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0097247 (Ohba) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,331,856 (Nakamura). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohba in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,160,899 (Lee). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite, among other things, the following feature:

"object displaying means for displaying, when the detecting means detects the virtual touches that are made sequentially to the predetermined number of touch points in accordance with the computer predetermined order, an object that connects the touch points sequentially subjected to the virtual touches"

As an example of this feature, Applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to Figure 8 of the present application, reproduced below:

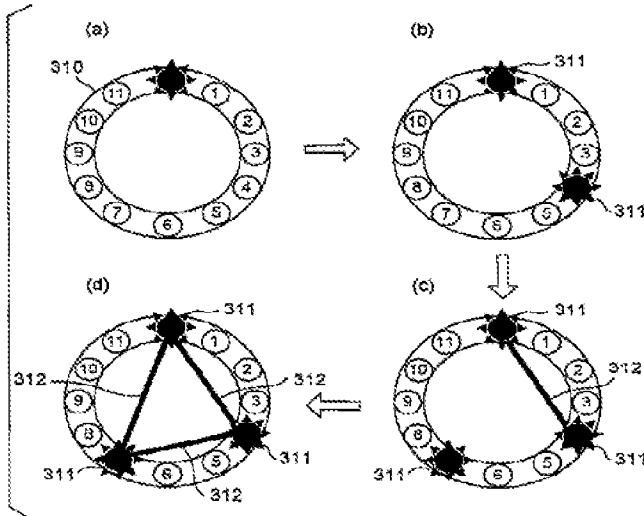


Figure 8 of the present application

As the object image 310 (unitary computer image) is touched in the predetermined order (order 12-4-7-12), an optical line 312 (object) connecting the flashing displays 311 (plurality of touch points) is displayed. A similar feature is also recited in independent claims 9, 13, and 14.

In rejecting claims 9, 13, and 14, the Examiner conceded that Ohba did not teach this feature. To cure this deficiency, the Examiner relied on Nakamura, specifically referring to Fig. 51A reproduced below:

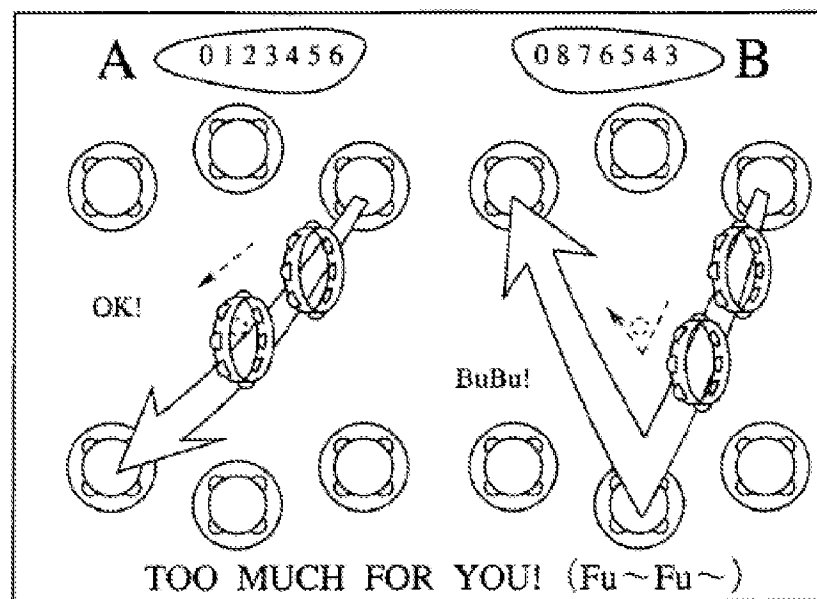


Figure 51A of Nakamura

A description of Figure 51A from the specification of Nakamura is reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience:

"In the display shown in FIG. 51, a command to dynamically move the tambourine-shaped operation device 80 among a plurality of indicative positions is given. For example, a command to move the operation device 80 is displayed by a large arrow. A tambourine mark moves along the arrow. The operation device 80 is moved along the tambourine mark. Positions of the operation device 80 are incessantly detected to incessantly check whether the operation device 80 agrees with the tambourine mark moving along the arrow. It is judged whether or not the command is correctly executed."

"In the display of FIG. 51A for a left game player, a large arrow is displayed from an indicative position on the upper right side to the lower left side. A tambourine mark moves along the arrow. The game player moves the tambourine-shaped operation device,

shaking the same from the upper right indicative position to the lower left indicative position."

"In the display of FIG. 51A for a right game player, a large Y-shaped arrow is displayed from an upper right indicative position to an upper left indicative position via a lower middle indicative position. A tambourine mark moves along the arrow. The game player moves the operation device, shaking the same from the upper right indicative position to the upper left indicative position via the lower middle indicative position." (Col. 35, lines 32-56 of Nakamura, emphasis added)

That is, the arrow depicted in Nakamura indicates to a user which direction to move the tambourine. However, the arrow is displayed before the user connects the different tambourines because the arrow is used to indicate the order in which the different tambourines must be connected. In contrast, claim 1 requires that the touch points are not connected until they are touched (i.e., the object connecting the touch points is displayed as each of the touch points is touched in the predetermined order).

Lee also fails to disclose the above-noted feature of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claim 1, and all claims depending therefrom, are allowable over the prior art of record for at least this reason.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 6-9, 13, and 14, and all claims depending therefrom, also believed to be patentable, as they are directed to similar subject matter as claim 1. As such, claims 6-9, 13, and 14, are believed patentable over the cited references as the references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every element recited in the claims.

New claim 15

Claim 15, recites, among other things, "means for highlighting the detected virtual touch point, wherein the highlighting of the detected virtual touch point is gradually faded over a

predetermined period of time." Applicants submit that this feature is not taught by any of the cited prior art, either alone or in combination.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Entry of this Amendment, and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/David W. Schalk/
David W. Schalk
Reg. No. 60,527

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304

Telephone: (212) 940-8712

Fax: (212) 940-8986

Docket No.: SCET 22.664 (100809-00339)

DWS